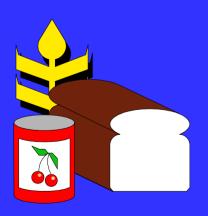


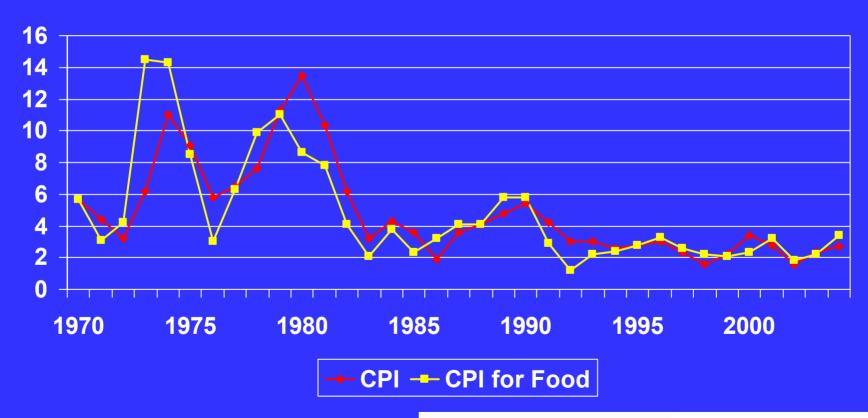
2005 Retail Food Price Outlook



Ephraim Leibtag
ERS-USDA

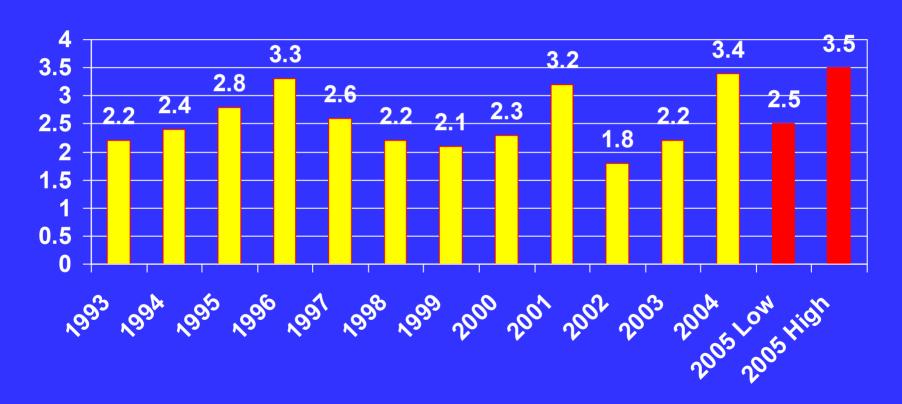
CPI vs CPI for Food 1970-2004

Annual Percent Change in CPI and CPI for Food



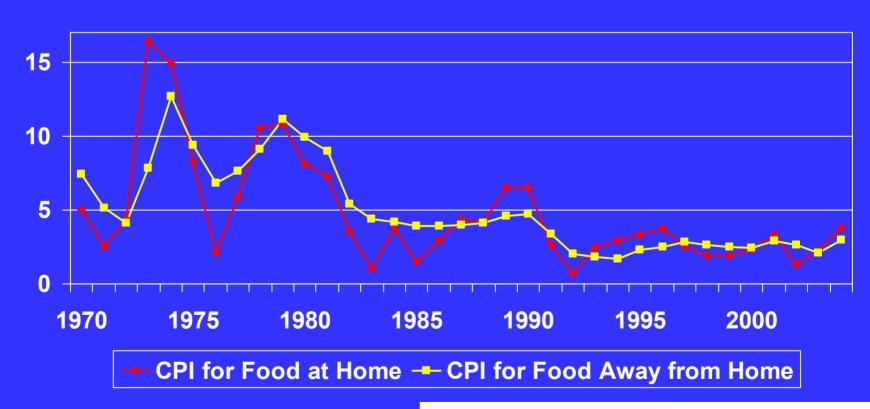
CPI for Food Expected to Stabilize in 2005

Annual Percent Change in CPI for Food



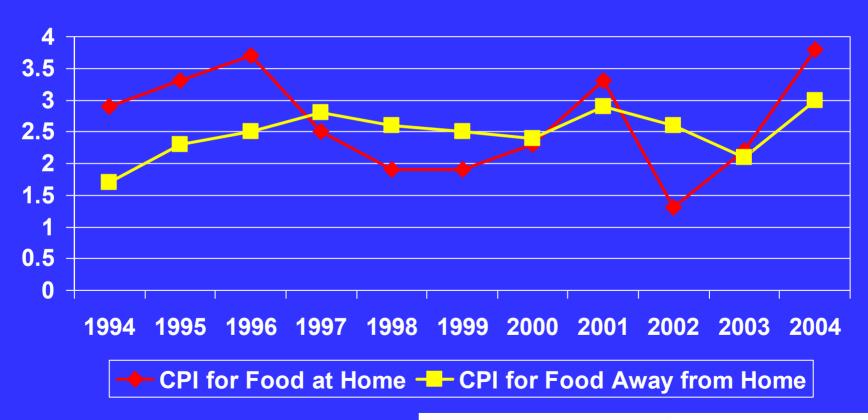
Food at Home vs Food Away from Home 1970-2004

Annual Percent Change



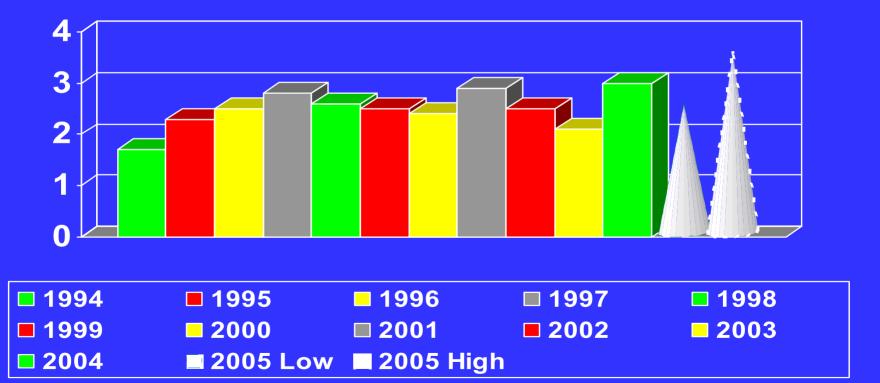
Food at Home vs Food Away from Home 1994-2004

Annual Percent Change



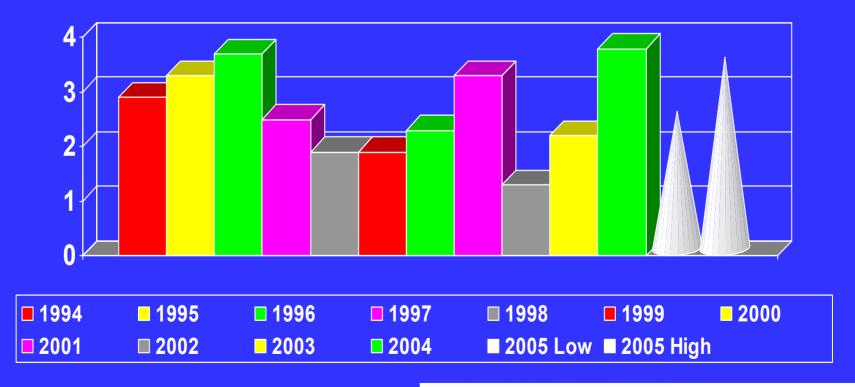
Steady Growth for FAFH CPI

Annual Percent Change in CPI for Food Away from Home



Slower Growth in Food-at-Home CPI

Annual Percent Change in CPI for Food at Home



Why?

- Upward Pull on Retail Food Prices:
 - Higher Energy and Transportation Costs
 - Rising Labor Costs
 - Uncertainty in Commodity Prices
- Stabilizing Forces:
 - Better Inventory Management/Cost Saving Technologies
 - Globalized Trade: Year-round availability
 - Increased Competition from nontraditional retail formats.
 - Food away from home continues upward trend in share of food bill.
 - Increased demand by consumers for convenience, quality, and low prices.

Percent Change in Food CPI 2002-2005 (a)

| Items | Actual | Actual | Actual | Forecast |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| All Food | 1.8 | 2.2 | 3.4 | 2.5 to 3.5 |
| FAFH | 2.5 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 2.5 to 3.5 |
| Food at Home | 1.3 | 2.2 | 3.8 | 2.5 to 3.5 |
| Beef | 0.1 | 9.0 | 11.6 | 1.0 to 2.0 |
| Pork | -0.4 | 1.9 | 5.6 | 1.0 to 2.0 |
| Other Meats | 3.5 | 2.5 | 4.5 | 1.5 to 2.5 |
| Poultry | 1.3 | 1.3 | 7.5 | 2.0 to 3.0 |

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Percent Change in Food CPI 2002-2005 (b)

| Items | Actual | Actual | Actual | Forecast |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| All Food | 1.8 | 2.2 | 3.4 | 2.5 to 3.5 |
| Food at Home | 1.3 | 2.2 | 3.8 | 2.5 to 3.5 |
| Fish and Seafood | -1.6 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 2.0 to 3.0 |
| Dairy | 0.6 | -0.1 | 7.3 | 2.5 to 3.5 |
| Fats and Oils | -0.2 | 1.3 | 6.6 | 3.0 to 4.0 |
| Sugar + Sweets | 2.1 | 1.9 | 0.7 | 0.0 to 1.0 |
| Eggs | 1.3 | 13.8 | 6.2 | -4.0 to -3.0 |

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Percent Change in Food CPI 2002-2005 (c)

| Items | Actual | Actual | Actual | Forecast |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| All Food | 1.8 | 2.2 | 3.4 | 2.5 to 3.5 |
| Food at Home | 1.3 | 2.2 | 3.8 | 2.5 to 3.5 |
| Fresh Fruits | 1.9 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 3.0 to 4.0 |
| Fresh Vegetables | 6.4 | 2.1 | 4.3 | 3.5 to 4.5 |
| Processed F + V | 3.7 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.0 to 2.0 |
| Cereals + Bakery | 2.2 | 2.4 | 1.6 | 2.5 to 3.5 |
| Nonalcoholic Bev. | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 to 1.0 |

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Food Price Inflation on the Decline

Average Annual Percent Change in Food Price Inflation by Decade

